



Connecticut Fire Marshals Association

Fire Marshal Walter Summers – First Vice President
Walter.summers@southwindsor.org 860-282-0669

Representative Dargan, Senator Larson and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I am Walter Summers, Fire Marshal for the Town of South Windsor and First Vice President for the CT Fire Marshals Association (CFMA). The CFMA represents over 300 Fire Marshals, Deputy Fire Marshals, and Fire Inspectors.

I am here today to testify on HB No. 5549 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CODES AND STANDARD COMMITTEE. This proposal bill would appoint two additional Fire Marshals as members to the Codes and Standards Committee. There are currently 2 fire marshals now serving on the 21 member Codes and Standards Committee.

The Codes and Standard Committee was formed in 1969 to develop the first State of Connecticut Building Code while a State Fire Code has been around since 1947. The original Committee membership was made up of 9 members featuring 2 architects, 3 professional engineers, two builders, one public health official, and the State Fire Marshal. The 2 local fire marshal currently on Committee were added in 1982 when PA 82-432 increased the membership from 9 to 14.

The Codes and Standards Committee was first charged with the responsibility of adopting the Fire Safety Code in 1987, but no additional fire safety expert were added at that time. But since 1987, the Committee membership has had 7 additional members added to raise the number to 21 with no additional fire safety experts added. The 7 additional members added have been a licensed architect, a laborer in building construction, an energy efficiency expert, a licensed electrical contractor, a licensed plumbing contractor, and a licensed HVAC contractor. All of these members represent trades deal mostly with Building Code issues.



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This Bill would add 2 additional fire safety experts providing the fire marshal community a minor increase in our voice in the Code adoption process for Connecticut. Even with this additional membership, the construction and design community would still maintain a super majority on the Codes and Standard Committee.

The CFMA members are pleased to see that your Committee has taken the time to look at this matter to bring more representatives that deal with Fire Safety Code issues to this committee. Thank you.

Thank you for your Assistance